

*Mr. Henry R. Dwight*

*with  
Compliments of the Author  
John F. Townsend*

FRANCIS PEYRE PORCHER, M.D.

(1824-1895)

By JOHN F. TOWNSEND, M.D.

CHARLESTON, SOUTH CAROLINA

**F**RANCIS PEYRE PORCHER, M.D., LL.D., was born at Ophir Plantation, St. John's Berkeley, S.C., December 14, 1824, the same year in which the Medical College of South Carolina was founded. He died at his home, 38 Meeting Street, Charleston, S.C., November 19, 1895, and was buried in Trinity "Black Oak" churchyard, St. John's Berkeley.

Dr. Porcher was in the fifth generation from the Huguenot, Dr. Isaac Porcher,<sup>1-6</sup> who fled to London about 1683, from the intolerance of Louis XIV of France on the revocation of the Edict of Nantes. Dr. Isaac Porcher landed in Charleston about 1686,<sup>7</sup> and settled at what is now Ladson, Goose Creek Parish,<sup>8</sup> attending the historic Goose Creek Church.<sup>9</sup> It is to this French ancestry that James Henry Rice<sup>10</sup> attributes the analytical mind which he declared peculiarly fitted Porcher to "pick out the salient points" of the botanical virtues of the Southern plants. Inheritance, thus, made his botanical studies effective and was also potent in giving to his mind a botanical urge to solve the hidden mysteries of the plants. It is worthy of note, also, that these botanical studies were made in a period when "it was rather regarded as a reproach for the educated physician to be at all addicted to botanical investigation."<sup>11</sup> This medical botanical urge was, no doubt, also inherited from his maternal grandparents<sup>12</sup>; his maternal great-grandfather being Thomas Walter

(1750-88) an unnaturalized English immigrant and botanist who, with the help of Fraser, collected plants from a radius of fifty miles along the banks of the Santee River for a botanical garden.<sup>13-15</sup> Specimens from this garden may still be seen in Kew Botanical Gardens, London, England. Thomas Walter<sup>13</sup> wrote, in Latin, the "Flora Caroliniana," dated "from the banks of the Santee, 30th December, 1787," and published by Fraser in London in 1788; a book describing 1000 species from 435 genera, "a classical work."<sup>15, 16</sup>

Thomas Walter married Sarah Anne Peyre; their daughter, Mary Walter, married Francis Peyre; and their daughter, Isabella Peyre, married Dr. William Porcher, the father of Dr. Francis Peyre Porcher.<sup>17</sup> Isabella Peyre, his mother, was also interested in the study of plants. In a letter to Dr. Joseph Hinton Mellichamp<sup>10, 12</sup> of James Island, a physician and botanist practising at Bluffton, S. C., Dr. Porcher says of her, "My mother knew and well recollected Dr. James McBride in Pineville, S.C., where they lived. Dr. McBride took much notice of her on account of her fondness for flowers."

This love of flowers and plant-lore, inherited from his mother by Porcher, stimulated him to increase his knowledge of plants further, for as a child he accompanied the much older Henry Ravenel in his walks over the neighboring countryside; and, like Ravenel, he became a distinguished member of the

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famous botanical quartet of the Carolina Tidewater. This quartet included Thomas Walter, Dr. James McBride (fellow-student with Calhoun at Yale), Henry W. Ravenel, and Dr. Francis Peyre Porcher.<sup>18</sup> And because the mind of the youth was bent and the eyes of the lad were trained to such prompt and accurate observation, the man became a scientist of note. Even at seventy years of age, and convalescing from a severe illness, he detected in a bunch of wild flowers a rare plant, a *Trilium pumilum*, which had been discovered by Michaux one hundred years before, but had not been seen since. Even the discovering eye of Ravenel had failed to find it in his many walks. This fine example of Porcher's knowledge and powers of observation won the praise and appreciation of J. H. Mellichamp and of W. A. Chapman, a distinguished botanist of Florida.<sup>19</sup>

We have spoken of the influence of inheritance in Porcher's life: the influence of his botanical ancestry and the influence of his medical ancestry. The great disease called influenza, known since 412 B.C.,<sup>20</sup> gets its name because it is supposed to be due to "astral influence." Porcher's mother was to him a double influence. She gave to him a rich botanical inheritance and she cultivated in him, during his life at Sarazin's Plantation, his love of flowers. She was an outstanding woman and her influence upon his whole life cannot be too greatly stressed. Left a widow at the age of thirty years, with six children to care for, she successfully managed the plantation and each winter took the children to school at Mt. Zion Academy in Winnsboro, S.C. Here she placed them under the "great moulder of men, Hudson," who "gave his scholars a splendid groundwork in Latin and Greek." Porcher's linguistic ability later enabled

him to add more honors to his growing fame.<sup>12</sup>

In 1844, at nineteen years of age, Dr. Porcher received an A.B. degree from the South Carolina College, now known as the University of South Carolina. His training here enabled him to read Latin and Greek fluently. To these, he later added a knowledge of French and still later, when teaching English to a student in Italy, it was said that he learned Italian much more rapidly than his pupil learned English.<sup>21</sup> In a notebook, in which he wrote from 1847 to 1895, there are many literary quotations in the four foreign languages in which he became proficient; so proficient, indeed, that he not only abstracted foreign articles for the Charleston Medical Journal and Review, but for other journals also. From 1850-55, he and Dr. Daniel James Cahusac Cain edited The Charleston Medical Journal and Review.<sup>6, 22</sup> In 1856 C. Happoldt edited it "with the assistance of Drs. Cain and Porcher." Dr. Porcher again edited it from 1873-1876; in 1873-1874 with Dr. Kinloch, and in 1875 with Dr. Francis LeJau Parker. Of *The Charleston Medical Journal and Review*, a brilliant South Carolina physician said that "It was such a scholarly review and journal, as would not be possible for the Medical Faculty of South Carolina now to produce."<sup>20</sup>

Dr. Porcher graduated from the South Carolina Medical College in 1847, taking first honors in a class of seventy-six.<sup>8, 22</sup> His thesis, "A Medico Botanical Catalogue of the Plants and Ferns of St. John's Berkeley, S.C." was later published by the faculty of the College. He was appointed by the American Medical Association to get the information that resulted in the paper that was read in 1849. He was again appointed by the American Medi-

cal Association on a committee of one, to report on the indigenous medicinal plants of South Carolina. This paper was ready to be read in 1852 but, since he was still in Europe, it was not read until 1854. Referring to his graduation thesis, Kelly and Burbage say, "This work proved to be the forerunner and groundwork of a very remarkable series of books," as follows: "Sketch of the Medical Botany of South Carolina" (1849); "The Medical, Poisonous, and Dietetic Properties of the Cryptogamic Plants of the United States," being a report made at the 1854 session of the American Medical Association held at Richmond, Virginia, and at St. Louis, Missouri; "Resources of the Southern Fields and Forests" (war volume, 1863; ed. 2, 1869). In addition to these large works, he wrote a prize essay entitled, "Illustrations of Diseases with the Microscope; Clinical Investigations, with upwards of 500 original drawings from nature and 110 illustrations from wood." There being no one else to do it, he made the cuts himself. For this essay, a prize of one hundred dollars offered by the South Carolina Medical Association was awarded him. At the invitation of a publishing firm before his death, he wrote an article on, "The Medicinal and Edible Properties of Cryptogamic Plants," illustrated by the most delicate and exquisite pen and ink drawings.

In order "to perfect himself in the refinements of his profession," he went to Europe for two years, spending thirteen months in the hospitals of Paris. In his article entitled, "Treatment of Yellow Fever," read at the South Carolina Medical Association at Sumter, 1872, he wrote that he had devoted "several months daily to the study and practice of the microscope under the direction of M. Robin in Paris. This

microscopic knowledge was to Dr. Porcher what the finding of a book on electricity in a second-hand store, on the banks of the Seine, was to Pupin<sup>23</sup>; it was the key that unlocked a great and lucrative invention. Not only was the microscope to Porcher the open Sesame that enabled him to write the prize essay<sup>24</sup>; it also materially and efficiently aided him in much of his research work. Dr. Silas Weir Mitchell, one of the "truants in medicine" at about the same time, 1851, studied physiology under Robin.<sup>25</sup> Dr. Osler in an article on antebellum American students at Paris hospitals mentions Peter G. Gaillard, Gibbs, and Peyre Porcher of Charleston and says:

It seems to me that this group of young fellows brought back from Paris, first, an appreciation of the value of method and accuracy in the study of the phenomena of disease; secondly, a profound and at the same time a much needed distrust of drugs; and, thirdly a Gallic refinement and culture which stamped them one and all as unusual men.

Dr. Porcher also went to Belgium, Germany, and Switzerland,<sup>18</sup> and he spent seven months in Florence, Italy, studying Italian literature and medicine. He was a "constant reader of Dante, Tasso and Ariosto as long as he lived."<sup>10</sup> His Florence friends remembered him. The following is a letter that he received:

Firens, 1854.

I was very glad to hear you were safely arrived to your plantation without encountering any danger over that wide large ocean, which has for so many ages formed a fatal barrier between the old and new worlds. How pleasant must have been those days you have past in the bosom of your family, among sweet remembrances of your childhood! How many interesting tales concerning our

manners and customs, must have excited your relations' curiosity and wonder. Nobody will, to be sure, be tired in addressing many questions to the traveller, who will then compare foreign customs with his own native land, his dear South Carolina. I have read some chapters of the beautiful book I received from you. It is very interesting and the author has well described the different feelings which rise in the mind of an inhabitant of the New World, who came from so far to salute the cradle of civilization, the Old Mother of his forefathers.

Pray salute very respectfully your mother and sisters on my part and tell me if you still remember our Italy's blue sky, in the silent and shadowy forest of your Carolina. I am with great esteem, your most humble servant.

Rose Ferrucci.<sup>26</sup>

A sonnet was written on Dr. Francis Porcher by Sardinian Ghibellini Torniali.<sup>27</sup> It was translated by Simms and published in *Russell's Magazine*.<sup>28</sup>

Porcher's letters from Europe, signed Iatros, started in 1852, telling of his voyage across, with his cousin, Dr. Rene Ravenel of St. John's Berkeley. These letters continued until 1854. Some appeared in the *Charleston Courier* in 1853. Some European letters written to Paul Hamilton Hayne were published by him. One letter to Dr. H. W. Ravenel, the botanist, tells of giving Dr. Ravenel's book to the Jardin des Plantes.<sup>12</sup>

With the exuberant overflow of ideas coursing through the brain of the recent first-honor graduate, and with the stimulus of the aptly expressed thoughts of the great writers of all time, Porcher saw flowing past his mental vision many verbal pictures, so finely portrayed that it seemed to him a desecration to let them sink into the oblivion of forgetfulness, and he determined to start a note book; a note book of literary excellence,

of law, of science, of art, of poetry, and of romance; a treasure-trove of quotations, in the language in which they were originally written. The following extracts are taken from this note book:

Hast thou a thought upon thy brain, catch it  
whilst thou canst,  
Or other thoughts shall settle there and  
this shall soon take wing  
Therefore to husband thine ideas and give  
them stability and substance  
Write often for thy secret eye: So shall thou  
grow wiser.

The commonest is full of thoughts:  
Some worthy of the rarest. (Tupper's  
Proverbial Philosophy, p. 110.)

Thou hast not lost an hour, whereof there  
is a record;  
A written thought at midnight shall re-  
deem the livelong day.

To be accurate write; to remember  
write; to know thine own mind write!  
Nulle dies sine linea.

But there is one thought that en-  
grosses the mind of every home-loving  
man. It is the inspiration that turns his  
thoughts to a fireside, to his own fire-  
side; and to a face, a woman's face.

O sweet and beautiful is night  
When the silver moon is high  
And countless stars like clustering gems  
Hang sparkling in the sky,

And one fond voice alone is heard.  
(Hood.)

The home, the voice, and the hearth  
are pictured here. At Kneburth Hall,  
the seat of Lord Lytton, the following is  
engraved in Old English around the  
ancestral hall:

Read the Rede of this olde Roof Tree;  
Here be trust fast—opinion free,  
Knightly right hand—Christian knee—  
Worth in all—wit in some—  
Laughter open—slander dumb.  
Hearth where rooted friendships grow  
Safe as altar—even to foe,  
And the sparks that upward go

When the hearth flame dies below  
If thy sap in them may be,  
Fear no Winter, olde roof tree.

In the *Charleston Courier* of January 4, 1851, may be read:

The Ophthalmic Dispensary. The Dispensary for Diseases of the eye, which has been opened during the past year over William's Hat Store, at the corner of King and Liberty Sts., is still continued under the charge of:

F. Peyre Porcher, M.D.  
P. A. Kinloch, M.D.

Hours of Attendance between 1-2 P.M., on Monday, Wednesday and Friday.

Realizing the lack of accommodations on the various plantations for the ill negro slaves, Dr. Francis Peyre Porcher, with Dr. J. J. Chisolm, opened in 1855 a hospital for these negroes. Hospital practices were different then. The *Charleston Courier* of January 3, 1844, describes the teaching of that date:

A hospital has been established in the Medical College Yard, Queen Street; at which patients requiring surgical operation will be received and accommodated with bedding, provision and nursing free from all charges for attendance and operation. Practitioners of Surgery are invited to avail themselves of the above, the only condition annexed being that the operation be performed before the medical class.

Dr. Porcher was "a tireless worker, all through his life." He was on the Staff of the Preparatory School, which was started in 1852. An advertisement in the *Charleston Courier* of 1855 states:

Charleston Preparatory Medical School of the Medical College of South Carolina, the 4th Session of the School, will begin on the 1st Monday in April and continue to July 15th. The different chairs are occupied as follows:

Anatomy and Physiology

Francis Turguand Miles  
Institute and Practice of Medicine

Daniel James Cahusac Cain  
Materia Medica and Therapeutics

Francis Peyre Porcher  
Obstetrics and Diseases of Women and Children

S. L. Lockwood  
Principles and Practice of Surgery

John Julian Chisolm

The Session will begin the 1st Monday in April with lectures and clinics at the Marine Hospital and the Alms House, and it is hoped that the Roper Hospital would be furnished in time for them to use that.

The price per session was \$50.00.<sup>12</sup>

Just after the death of Dr. Porcher, the *News and Courier*<sup>19</sup> said that this Charleston Preparatory Medical School was started by Dr. Francis Peyre Porcher and Dr. Flagg. Dr. Porcher was the principal of the school.

During the Confederate War<sup>12</sup> his wife and children stayed with his mother's family at Sarazin's or Pinopolis.<sup>1</sup> "He commenced his service to the Confederacy as surgeon to Holcombe's Legion of South Carolina, Col. P. P. Preston, Evan's Brigade." In 1862 he was sent to the Naval Hospital, Fort Nelson, Norfolk Harbor.<sup>6, 14, 17</sup> After he had written the "Resources of the Southern Fields and Forests" he was assigned to the South Carolina Hospital at Petersburg, Va.<sup>6</sup>

After the fall of Norfolk, Dr. Porcher was detailed by the Surgeon General of the Confederacy, Dr. Samuel Preston Moore [born in Charleston but resident of Virginia] to write a medical botany in order that the people of the Confederacy might learn the useful properties of the plants growing all about them, and so supply themselves with medicine which, owing to the war, they could no longer import from outside.

Going back to his home, Dr. Porcher spent one year producing "The Resources of the Southern Fields and Forests," a book of 700 pages. Of the 3500 plants catalogued, Dr. Porcher found 410 specimens of medicinal or economic value. Information on these he prepared in comprehensive form so that "the physician in his private practice, the planter on his estate or the regimental surgeon in the field may collect and apply the substances." Two people assisted him, his mother, Isabella Porcher, an accomplished botanist, and his wife, Virginia Leigh, to whom the book was dedicated.<sup>15</sup> In the introduction of his book Dr. Porcher mentions what W. Gilmore Simms had written of the South:

Her resources in the woods, and swamps, and fields, the earth and rocks; for the purposes of need, utility, medicine, art, science, and mechanics; hints to the domestic manufacturer; to the works in wood and earth; rock and tree; and shrub and flowers; hints, clues, suggestions, which may be turned to the most useful purposes—not merely as expedients during the pressure of war and blockade, but continuously, through all time, as affording profit, use, interest and employment to our people.

With this argument, Dr. Porcher thoroughly agreed and made of his book a valuable source, not only of medicine, but also of profitable industries. For in another place in the introduction he says:

I here introduce a notice of upwards of five hundred substances, possessing every variety of useful quality. Some will be rejected as useless, others may be found upon closer examination to be still more valuable. The most precious of all Textile Fibers, and Grains, Silks, Seeds, Fruits, Oils, Gums, Caoutchouc, Resins, Dyes, Fecula, Albumen, Sugar, Starch,

Vegetable Acids and Alkalies, Liquors, Spirits, Burning Fluid, material for making Paper and Cordage, Grasses and Forage Plants, Barks, Medicines, Wood for Tanning and the production of Chemical Agencies, for Timber, Ship-building, Engraving, Furniture, Implements, and Utensils of every description—all abound in the greatest magnificence, and need but the arm of the authorities or the energy and enterprise of the private citizen to be made sources of utility, profit and beauty.

The latest realization of the prophecy is the paper mill now being erected near Charleston.

He wrote in 1869 of the value of the cotton seed oil<sup>14</sup> but would not commercialize his knowledge. In 1870 it became a valuable commercial product.<sup>6</sup> He wrote of the value of the phosphate deposits "recently discovered and developed . . . which may contribute so materially to the improvement in the production of our fields." "Then the lands near cities may be turned into 'Garden Farms,' which will supply not only the cities contiguous to them but fill our ships going North with fruits, vegetables, and produce"; not only garden farms, but immense truck farms have arisen; and the phosphate findings have given the geologist an insight into the prehistoric animals that used to live in this part of the world. To the many subjects with which Dr. Porcher was intimate, that of geology was also added. He wrote intelligently of the geology of the Southern States and deduced therefrom the nature of their soil; their especial fertility and the kinds of vegetation that may be grown thereon. He wrote of the method of growing and the value of the Sea Island cotton. In a letter from my grandfather, John Townsend, to my father, then a student at the University of South Carolina, after the War of the Confederacy, Grandfather wrote that

he had, that year, received \$2.00 a pound for his cotton.<sup>11</sup>

Porcher wrote of the method of growing and of the manufacture of the indigo dyes. Some of the indigo vats are still in existence. "Indigo," he says, "is beneficial in the treatment of dysentery."<sup>11</sup> He also wrote of the method of growing tea and tobacco. The latter is now a big southern industry. He wrote of the big grain "Ward" rice, that was introduced to the world by Col. J. J. Ward, his father-in-law, who grew big grain rice at Brookgreen.<sup>12</sup> He wrote fluently, clearly, and in detail, of the value of surface and tile drainage and showed the advantages to be derived from both for cultivation, and for health.<sup>11</sup> My father realized this and tile-drained his cotton plantation on Edisto Island, so that we could live on it during the summer as well as the winter, and made it possible for it to be cultivated by modern methods, thus proving the benefit to cultivation and to health predicted by Porcher.

Of the medical value of "Resources of the Southern Fields and Forests," he says:<sup>12</sup> "In the State of New York, of 1450 species but 50 are of medical value, while in South Carolina, a much smaller area, of 3500 species 410 are of medical value; further, an area in lower South Carolina, but ten miles in diameter furnished one and one-third more drugs than the whole of New York." The Southern States were therefore plenteous with potent drugs waiting to have their names announced.

The Confederacy, owing to its lack of a navy, was shut off and hemmed in. Men suffered agony for want of anesthetics during operations. They died like flies in the trenches. Malaria raged. Dysentery and typhoid took frightful toll. There was no medicine and no way to get medicine. "The suffering Con-

federacy turned to Dr. Porcher."<sup>10</sup> "Many so-called home remedies in the South owed their origin to Porcher."<sup>11</sup>

His book was a god-send to the Confederate Soldier in camp who learned from it how to make many things for himself and his companions; he told how medicines could be prepared from the plants, so that the soldiers in the field or the hospital staff with each army could go forth to find and prepare for their sick comrades the healing and alleviating remedies direly needed.<sup>10</sup>

This book is said to have "Saved the Confederacy for two years." In his introduction, he wrote that "the people in the South could get medicine from plants in their neighborhood."<sup>10</sup> "He held that the diseases of a section had their cure in the plants that grew near by, thus malaria was helped by snake root; dog wood, etc."<sup>15</sup> This is stated in almost the same words in "Truants"; a book written about doctors by Moynihan. He says: "The belief, that for every known disease a remedy lay near at hand in herbs that grew where disease flourished, was universal."<sup>25</sup>

In the *Courier* of Rome, Ga., May 3, 1873, Paul Hamilton Hayne wrote that the "Resources of the Southern Fields and Forests" should give Porcher a "National and European reputation." A Cornell botanist pronounced<sup>30</sup> it the "finest piece of research work of its kind in the literature of America." "His researches shed new light."<sup>27</sup> "The Resources of the Southern Fields and Forests' should be especially esteemed when we think of how it was written," says Mrs. Wickham.<sup>15</sup>

It is difficult for those of the present generation to appreciate the contemporary value of the work. It was written at a fever heat (in the midst of the most arduous professional work as a surgeon), with the de-

sire to supply as quickly as possible the needs of the people of the South, by attracting their attention to the wealth of material which lay all around them in their fields and forests.

He speaks<sup>11</sup> of the discovery of alkalis (of which little was then known) by Serturmer and Sequin in 1817 and makes an urgent plea for pure standard drugs, giving the names of those pharmaceutical firms who were working effectively along that line. By the order of the Surgeon General<sup>12</sup> of the Confederacy of America, Dr. Porcher wrote a paper in 1864 entitled "Suggestions to the Surgeon General of Confederate States of America."<sup>13</sup>

The Confederate War having ended, he again opened his office at the Mill's House, on the southwest corner of Meeting and Queen Streets, and resumed his practice, fulfilling the many duties that the various honors that he received demanded of him. The war edition of "The Resources of the Southern Fields and Forests" having been quickly exhausted, and the demand for more copies being urgent, he had prepared, without mother or wife to help him, another edition, the 1869 edition.

His duties became innumerable. He was in charge of Marine Hospital in Charleston for six years before the Confederate War and for several years afterward.<sup>12</sup> He was appointed lecturer at the City Hospital in 1869-70, and at one time he and Dr. Somers Buist had the summer service for six months.<sup>3</sup> In April of 1872 he delivered in Columbia, before the Medical Association of South Carolina the President's address on "Yellow Fever in Charleston in 1871 with remarks on its treatment."<sup>2, 3, 6, 34</sup> He remained in the city through all of the yellow fever epidemics.<sup>12</sup> He caught the disease during one of the epidemics and told a friend, William White,

whom he had nursed through the yellow fever, "Treat me as I have treated you."<sup>12</sup> He realized that people on the second and third floors did not catch yellow fever, nor spread it as readily as those who lived on the ground floor.<sup>3</sup> He was offered \$500.00 to go to Florida with a commission of experts to study yellow fever, but his practice prevented his going.<sup>13</sup>

He filled the chair of Clinical Medicine at the Medical College of South Carolina from 1872-74, being in 1874 appointed to the chair of Materia Medica and Therapeutics, which he taught for seventeen years, until 1891.<sup>6</sup> He was chairman of the Committee of Quarantine, City of Charleston, 1881.<sup>30</sup> When the Department of Pharmacy was added in 1882 he taught Medical Botany and Materia Medica in that department until 1891.<sup>12</sup> He was President of the Medical Society of South Carolina in 1874-75.<sup>17, 36</sup> He was a delegate from South Carolina to the meeting of the American Medical Association, in the years 1851-52 and 1878,<sup>37</sup> and was vice-president of the American Medical Association in 1880.<sup>6, 38</sup> He was a member of the Board of Health of Charleston, S. C., in 1880 and for many years.<sup>39</sup>

In 1885, he attended, with Peter Gaillard, the organization meeting<sup>33, 40</sup> of the Association of American Physicians,<sup>32</sup> which meeting was held at the Army Medical Building in Washington, and at which he read a carefully prepared paper on typhoid fever.<sup>41</sup> He was an Associate Fellow of the College of Physicians, Philadelphia,<sup>6</sup> of which there are only a few hundred members,<sup>40</sup> each elected on account of some outstanding achievement.

In the *Transactions of the 43rd Annual Session of the South Carolina Medical Association*, which was held April 19-20, in Sumter, we read:



In 1889 Dr. Francis Peyre Porcher of Charleston reports a series of 69 cases in which he tapped for pleuritic effusion. In this operation he is facile princeps in this state, and the large number of cases very properly attests his wide experience as well as his skill in physical diagnosis. The operation of paracentesis of the pericardium was, according to Prof. Roberts of Philadelphia, only performed sixty times from 1819-1880; and only eight times in America during the same period. Dr. Porcher performed successfully one of these eight; which is recorded in Dr. Robert's book and reported in the *New York Medical Record*, July, 1878.<sup>34</sup>

Dr. Porcher was not only versatile in medicine, for in November, 1889,<sup>17</sup> he made an address<sup>6</sup> of rare literary worth and interest. This address was to the Association of the Survivors of the Confederate Surgeons of South Carolina, at their annual meeting in Columbia.<sup>35</sup> *The Register* of Columbia, the next day, said: "When Porcher had finished his tribute to the Confederate Soldiers there was scarcely a dry eye in the house." He paid tribute to the doctors in the Confederate Army, who, he says: "Served with enthusiasm when they knew that their deeds would never be recognized, either by mention in the Gazette, by brevet rank conferred, or by recommendation read at the head of the regiment and reports sent to headquarters."<sup>15</sup>

In August, 1890, he was one of the Committee of ten American Physicians to the Tenth International Congress of Physicians held in Berlin,<sup>32, 34, 44</sup> and the next year he was the only Southerner appointed on the Committee of American Physicians to the Eleventh International Congress<sup>34, 44</sup> meeting in August at Rome.<sup>32</sup> When he refused the honor on account of the demands of his patients he was told: "Then only nine will

go."<sup>12</sup> There was no one to take his place.

In 1891 he received another honor. The University of South Carolina at their commencement exercises conferred upon him the Degree of LL.D.<sup>46</sup> In 1889 he was president of the Section of General Medicine of the Pan American Congress held in New York<sup>40</sup> so it is not surprising that the penalty of such arduous work was reaped when in 1893 he was "desperately ill," from "a stroke," but recovered sufficiently to "walk with assistance," going to Pinopolis on the year's visit already mentioned.<sup>3</sup> Forty years later, on Saturday evening, September 2, 1933, a Civilian Conservation Corps Camp near Pinopolis was named for and dedicated to Dr. Francis Peyre Porcher with appropriate ceremonies.<sup>43</sup>

Dr. Francis Peyre Porcher was a man of unusual learning and extraordinary versatility. Even in 1848, at twenty-three years of age, he wrote in the *Southern Review* an article showing a wide range of literary research and critical ability discussing Henry McKenzie's book "A Man of Feeling."<sup>37</sup> "Cultivated in both literary and medical lines, he enjoyed a beautiful thought and finely turned phrase with the delight of an artist in words."<sup>15</sup> This versatility is also shown by his many abstracts from noted authors of English, French, Italian, Latin and Greek literature. He was also a member of the Elliott Society of National History.

Some amusing stories are told as a result of his forgetfulness or deep concentration. Once he went to St. John's Berkeley to dig up the bones of some Indians. These he left, by mistake, on the train. He published a request for their return. A day or two later the *News and Courier* came out with "Dr. Porcher's bones have been found."<sup>12</sup>

Again, while playing with Anne Alston and Peyre, he hurried off to see a very sick child. He returned quite indignant over the levity displayed by the parents during his visit. This levity was explained when told that on his bald forehead was pasted a tag on which was written: "Drink So and So's Best Whiskey."<sup>12</sup>

The *Transactions of the South Carolina Medical Association*<sup>32</sup> said of Dr. Porcher: "Laborious as was his life in active practice, in instruction, in reporting observations and expounding theories in his chosen profession, he found delight in literary pursuits."<sup>10</sup> Specimens of the range of his wide research and critical ability may be found in his contributions to the *Southern Review*, in a series of thoughtful, polished articles in the *Charleston Courier* on "Life, Nature, and Art in Europe," in a "Plea for Italy," in *Russell's Magazine* (1858), and other publications and addresses.<sup>10, 45</sup>


He was a vestryman of St. Luke's Episcopal Church in Charleston, S. C. for twenty-five years, and was the moving influence that brought Robert Wilson, D.D., from Maryland in 1884. Robert Wilson, D.D., was the writer of "Half Forgotten By-ways of the Old South," and also the father of Dr. Robert Wilson, the dean of the Medical

College of South Carolina. Porcher was the warm personal friend of Timrod, Simms and Hayne, who were welcome and frequent guests at his hospitable board.<sup>32</sup> They, with Dr. Porcher and others, formed the "Saturday Night Club," a literary club.<sup>3</sup> Porcher wrote many articles of a non-medical nature, which were published in non-medical papers.<sup>46</sup> He wrote of the prevention and treatment of carbon dioxide poisoning in fire fighting<sup>3, 33</sup>; he wrote a most "interesting account of a thirteen acre olive grove belonging to Robert Chisolm, on Chisolm's Island. The trees came originally from Ligorna, Italy. They resisted, successfully, the intense, killing cold of January, 1835, but were cut down by the Federal soldiers in 1861-1862. The olives were picked, barrelled, and shipped all over the world."<sup>10</sup>

He extended the voice of hopefulness to us—to everybody, if we but apply the lesson to our lives. He says:<sup>11</sup>

The South has been swept as by a whirlwind, and like one of its native pines, scathed and blasted by the lightnings of war, its inherent powers of reproduction are almost limitless. Its seasons of Spring and Summer are long; navigation of its rivers is scarcely ever interrupted and during the whole year its people may be continuously and industriously occupied.

#### REFERENCES

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8. GEE, W. P. South Carolina Botanist Bull. No. 72, University of South Carolina, pp. 46-48.
9. Judge H. A. M. Smith, Federal Judge, Charleston, S. C.
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  12. PORCHER, ANNE ALSTON. Personal letter.
  13. MAXON, W. R. Thomas Walter, Botanist. N. S. National Museum, April 22, 1935.
  14. HICKLIN, J. B. Article on Dr. Porcher. *Raleigh News & Observer*, Sept. 22, 1935.
  15. WICKHAM, J. P. *Confederate Veteran*, 33: No. 12, 1925.
  16. Pamphlet Smithsonian 49.
  17. Geological record, A. A. Porcher, Personal letter.
  18. "A Berkelyite." Camp Porcher. *News & Courier*, Sept. 3, 1933.
  19. *News & Courier*, Nov. 20 and 21, 1895.
  20. TOWNSEND, J. F. History of influenza epidemics. ANN. MED. HIST., 5: No. 6, 1933.
  21. "Father Fani as a lad was engaged to talk Italian daily to Dr. Porcher. He later became a high prelate (Cardinal, I think) in the Roman Catholic Church in Florence. We had a photo of him in his churchly robes with much lace adorning them. They wrote to each other up to Dr. Porcher's death." A. A. P.
  22. *Trans. South Carolina M. A.*, p. 129, 1896. In memoriam.
  23. PUPIN. Immigrant to Inventor.
  24. Illustrations of Disease with the Microscope. Clinical investigations aided by the microscope, and by chemical reagents, with microscopical observations of pathological specimens, medical and surgical, obtained in Charleston, S. C. A contribution intended to disclose the minute history of the diseases prevailing in this latitude, and to assist future students; with upwards of five hundred original drawings from nature, made at the time of the observations. Put forth with one hundred illustrations, on wood [he made the wood plates]; South Carolina Medical Association, 1861.
  25. LORD MOYNIHAM. Truants. Cambridge, Oxford Univ. Press, 1936.
  26. Personal note book of Dr. Francis Peyre Porcher.
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  28. Original Sonnett addressed to Francis Peyre Porcher by Sardinian Ghibellini Torniali and translated by W. G. Simms. *Russell's Magazine*, Vol. II, p. 228:  
 Salve! O figlia di Washington! bambina  
 Pur dianzi ascosa in povera capanna,  
 Or cresciuta gigante e omai regina  
 Del mar. Temuta dalla sua tiranna.  
 Quando io veggo spuntar sulla marina  
 Il vessil tuo che niun delitto appanna  
 Pensol Oh tuo non ordisti alla meschina  
 Mia patria il destrin rio che la condanna.  
 To pellegrin che torni al santo litto,  
 Dille un amico mio dall' altra spondo  
 Cui chiesi un verso, se tenne. l'invite:  
 Oh ben quinta l'America al convito,  
 Die popoli! Oh delt steso fuor dell' onda,  
 Dell' Italia il confinsegni il suo dito!  
 [An<sup>1</sup> infant, in an humble cabin rear'd,  
 But a short season gone, I welcome thee,  
 Oh, child of Washington, queen of the sea,  
 A giant grown, and by the tyrant fear'd!  
 When o'er the deep thy starry flag I hail,  
 Spotless, me seems—"Oh! thou, at least, I cry,  
 Wilt not decree such fate to Italy,  
 As that which still her children must bewail!"  
 And thou, young Pilgrim! to that sacred land  
 Fondly returning; to your people say,  
 That, bade to sing, the Bard would fain obey,  
 With his—"All hail America! thy stand  
 Take 'mongst the nations!—From thy shore  
 decree,  
 What hence should be the bonds, the realm  
 of Italy!]
  29. *Charleston Medical Journal and Review*, Vol. 4, January, 1877; for cases in detail. Favorably commented on by Surgeon General Steinberg in his paper on Yellow Fever in *Ward's Hand Book*; also by C. W. Harsey after his experience in Florida. Sent to infested cities in 1878.
  30. *Year Book*, City of Charleston, 1881-82, p. 88.
  31. *Trans. A. M. A.*
  32. *Trans. 43rd Ann. Session, South Carolina M. A.*, p. 56; 129, 1896-99.
  33. From a newspaper clipping in Francis Porcher's cabinet.
  34. Report of ten cases of aspiration of the chest for pleuritic effusion (3rd series); eight pints of purulent fluid withdrawn in one case. *Trans. South Carolina M. A.*, 1884, *New Orleans M. & S. J.* (n.d.).
  35. A Gem, Col. J. W. R. Pope, *Register*, Columbia, S. C., November 20, 1889.

<sup>1</sup> Translation.

36. *Min. Med. Soc. South Carolina*, 1874.  
 37. *Min. Med. Soc. South Carolina*, 1851-52, 1878.  
 38. *Trans. A. M. A.*, 1880.  
 39. *Year Book*, Charleston, S. C., 1880, et seq.  
 40. List of Names of American College of Physicians, organization meeting:

In newspaper (no name) preliminary meeting for organizing Association American Physicians at Army Medical Museum. List of those invited to be present:

James H. Hutchinson, William Pepper, William Osler, S. Weir Mitchell, J. M. DeCosta, Horatio C. Wood, James C. Wilson, Edward T. Barron, Morris Longstreth, James Tyson, E. O. Shakespeare, Henry F. Formad, Wharton Sinkler, Fred P. Henry and I. Minis Hays of Philadelphia; Francis Delafield, Wm. H. Draper, George L. Peabody, A. Brayton Ball, A. Jacobi, E. G. Janeway, Francis P. Kinnicutt, Alfred L. Loomis, William T. Lusk, Thos. A. McBride, A. A. Smith, Wm. M. Polk, T. Mitchell Prudden, Beverly Robinson, E. C. Sequin, and E. Darwin Hudson of New York City; Robert T. Edes, Francis Minot, Frederick C. Shattuck, Edward N. Whittier, George M. Garland, Reginald H. Fitz, Wm. W. Gannett, Charles F. Folsom, Frank D. Draper, James P. Putnan, and George B. Shattuck of Boston, Mass.; R. P. Howard, George Ross and George Wilkins of Montreal, Canada; Frank Donaldson, F. T. Miles, Samuel C. Chew, W. H. Welch, W. J. Councilman and J. E. Atkinson of Baltimore, Md.; W. W. Johnson and Samuel C. Bussey of Washington, D. C.; J. E. Graham of Toronto, Canada; J. F. Whittaker and F. Rosheimer of Cincinnati, Ohio; G. Baumgarten and P. S. Robinson of St. Louis, Mo.; W. Edwin Solly of Colorado Springs, Col.; H. M. Lyman and Hosmer A. Johnson of Chicago, Ill.; H. D. Schmidt and Joseph Jones of New Orleans, La.; F. Peyre Porcher of Charleston, S. C.; F. Rochester, of Buffalo, N. Y.; Henry H. and Samuel B. Ward of Albany, N. Y.; John T. Carpenter of Pottsville, Pa.; Edward L. Trudeau of Saranac Lake, N. Y.; J. F. A. Adams of Pittsfield, Mass.; J. T. Dana of Portland, Me.; James K. Thacker of New Haven, Conn.; John S. Billings and George M. Sternberg, U. S. A.; John Guiteras, U. S. Marine Hospital Service, Charleston, S. C.; Dr. Francis Delafield of N. Y. City; Temporary Chairman, presided and made opening address. Constitution and By-Law. Annual meeting, June—limited to one hundred—qualification of members accomplishment of some work of importance. Session this afternoon and two sessions tomorrow. Dr. S. Weir Mitchell of Philadelphia, paper on "Knee Jerk and Muscle Jerk in Disease," and Dr. F. Peyre Porcher of Charleston, S. C.,

read paper on "Typhoid Fever." A newspaper notice of the preliminary meeting, June 17 and 18, 1886, in the Medical Museum Building, Washington, D. C., gives a list of papers.

41. Republished in *New Orleans M. J.*, Sept., 1886. Pamphlet in Porcher's handwriting in possession of Virginia L. Porcher.  
 42. Camp Porcher, newspaper clipping.  
 43. Physicians' 10th International Medical Congress, Berlin, August 9, 1890. Committee as follows:

United States

Dr. William T. Lusk	} Chairmen New York.
Dr. Abraham Jacobi,	
Dr. William H. Draper	
Dr. William Pepper	.....Philadelphia.
Dr. Reginald H. Fitz	.....Boston.
Dr. William Osler	.....Philadelphia.
Dr. Samuel C. Bussey	.....Washington.
Dr. F. Peyre Porcher	.....Charleston.
Dr. Henry Hun	.....Albany.

Canada

Dr. J. Stewart .....Montreal.

44. Physicians' 11th International Medical Congress. American Sub-committee, following membership (named by A. Jacobi, who was appointed chairman in an official letter, August 22, 1892, by Prof. Geride Bacelli, President and Prof. E. Margliano, Secretary-general).

Dr. W. T. Briggs, Nashville, Tenn.  
 Dr. S. C. Bussey, Washington, D. C.  
 Dr. N. S. Davis, Chicago, Ill.  
 Dr. Wm. Pepper, Philadelphia, Pa.  
 Normon W. Lingsley, D.D.S., New York, N. Y.  
 Dr. Chas. A. L. Read, Cincinnati, Ohio.  
 Dr. Alex. S. C. Skene, Brooklyn, N. Y.  
 Dr. H. P. Bowditch, Boston, Mass.  
 Dr. C. Cushing, San Francisco, Cal.  
 Dr. A. Jacobi, New York—Chairman.  
 Dr. Wm. Osler, Baltimore, Md.  
 Dr. F. Peyre Porcher, Charleston, S. C.  
 Dr. D. B. St. John Roosa, New York, N. Y.  
 Dr. James Stewart, Montreal, Canada.

45. GREEN. History of the University of South Carolina. P. 408.  
 46. *Russell's Magazine; Charleston M. J. & Rev.*, Century and Spirit of Time, *J. Chemistry*, Boston; Medical Heads and Medical Life in Paris (three essays), Charleston Library.  
 47. WILSON, R. R. Half-Forgotten By-ways of the Old South. *Columbia (S. C.) State Courier*.